



# Media Information

Columbus Division of Police

Date: 8/12/2019

Traffic Bureau / Accident Investigation Unit

Thomas Quinlan, Chief of Police

For further information, contact: Sgt. Brooke Wilson

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Ext:

Type of Offense/Incident: Fatal Traffic Crash

Date: 7/30/2019

Time: 12:46am

Location of Offense/Incident: I-71 n/b at E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave

Zone: 5

Precinct: 7

Incident Report #: 190629868

Cruiser District: 73

Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:

Suspect:	Address:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Charges:			
Suspect:	Address:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Charges:			

**Incident Summary:** On 7/30/2019 at approximately 12:44 am, Ms. Britney Averett (34) of Columbus, was involved in a single-vehicle crash in the northbound lanes of I-71 just south of E. 5th Ave. Ms. Averett lost control of her vehicle and struck the inside concrete wall, disabling her vehicle in the left lane. Over the next few minutes, other motorists stopped to assist. These efforts would eventually lead to the accumulation of 4 vehicles and 8 people (5 of whom were now pedestrians) in the left lane of the freeway.

At this time Ms. Heather Carpenter (43) of Grove City, was northbound on I-71 in a Ford Windstar when she struck one or more of the stopped vehicles, resulting in multiple secondary collisions between vehicles and pedestrians. One of those pedestrians was Ms. Sherren Lancaster (50), of Columbus. In all, 6 people were transported to area hospitals with a variety of injuries. Ms. Lancaster sustained the only life-threatening injuries and was taken to The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center where she was admitted in critical condition.

The Accident Investigation Unit responded to the scene and initiated and investigation.

On August 11, 2019, Ms. Lancaster died at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

This investigation is continuing.

There have been 34 traffic fatalities in Columbus in 2019.

Copy To:     Executive Staff                       Bureau Commander                       Public Information Office

**Prepared By: Sgt. Brooke Wilson**  
**Approved By: Sgt. Brooke Wilson**

**Assignment: 609**  
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